Famous Wildcatter Finds Word to Help Bewildered World: It Is 'Constructive'

H. L. Hunt, Dallas oil man, has spent much of his life searching for oil. His searches brought him fame and fortune—both of which he "hides under a bushel"—and made him perhaps the most successful "wildcatter" of all time.

In recent years, Mr. Hunt has conducted another search—a search for a word which might help the world by helping people define themselves in relation to their own political and governmental philosophies. He believes that he has succeeded in this search just as he succeeded in his search for oil. The word is "Constructive"—not as a party label, but as a definition of objectives for those who unselfishly and earnestly desire government under the best principles of all parties.

Mr. Hunt's reason for choosing "Constructive," and his definition of the word, has been published by him in a brochure—perhaps the first time anything ever appeared in print under his signature. It has attracted so much attention that The Times herewith reprints it in full.

By H. L. HUNT

"Let us raise a standard to which the wise and honest can repair," said George Washington in his plea to the Constitutional Convention.

"Constructive," used as a name for themselves and their cause, will greatly aid those who today strive for the wise and honest in government. In recent years they have been sadly handicapped and have fared badly under the names by which they have been known.

In the May 14 Gallup Poll, 23 per cent said they were liberal, 17 per cent conservative, and 60 per cent failed to make a choice between the two designations. The conservatives trailed the liberals by 15 percentage points. In the month earlier Gallup Poll of April 15 between political parties outside the south, 39 per cent voted Republican, 40 per cent Democratic and 21 per cent other parties or undecided. The Republicans with 49½ per cent of the major vote trailed by 1 per cent. June 25 the same type Gallup Poll again showed Republicans with 49½ per cent of the major party vote trailing by 1 per cent.

These three polls, taken within a 70-day period, seem to prove that conservative as a name for a philosophy is 14 percentage points less popular than Republican as a name for a party—and that has been none too popular since a fateful day back in 1929 when millions of stock market "investors," large and small, pursuing their 1929 plan for "getting something for nothing" stubbed their speculative toes, and party affiliation failed to save them.

Handicap Too Big

In sports events, the best seldom win when assigned a handicap of as much as 15 per cent. Likewise, the forces stressing economy, stability and integrity in government—Republicans or Democrats—laboring under the handicap of being known as reactionaries or conservatives seldom prevail.

"Constructive," if used as a title, would attract nearly all former conservatives, some thoughtful liberals, and a great many of those who have been undecided. We may assume that should the same people of the May 14 poll be asked to choose between "liberal" and "constructive," far more than 40 per cent would make a choice. The previously undecided, now being offered a more attractive choice, would thoughtfully weigh the new question. Many of them would cast aside lack of conviction and then proudly announce that they were "constructive" for in so doing they would proclaim a faith.

'Too Constructive?'

It may be said, sometimes truthfully, of a careful figure in public life or a well-founded principle that the person or principle is "too conservative." Those who would belittle could never charge "too constructive."

When middle-of-the-roaders and others without particular conviction temporarily lean toward the liberal side they can, and doubtless do, take great pride in the appealing banner "liberal," but when leaning toward what should be known as the "constructive" side, they may balk at the title conservative and fail to announce or support their preference.

Conservative Groups

Conservative at the very best implies a substantial, tried, proven and stable course in government. Unfortunately, the word has become associated with age, timidity, stagnation and reaction. To many it implies monopoly, despotism and depression and recalls stand pat policies of both the Democrat and Republican parties which in failure provided capital for skillful demagogues.

"Right" as a name for the constructive side is less objectionable than conservative but its use is impaired because it can mean monarchist, Tory and conservative. A further disadvantage is that it has a foreign tinge and also suggests inadequacy because in recent years it has been a term applied to impotent opposition parties.

'Progressive' Misused

"Progressive" is a fine title but it and other good names have been misused and tainted by radicals and are not now acceptable to people who believe in individual initiative, freedom and liberty.

"Constructive" may designate the portion of the Democratic party opposing radicalism, the part of the Republican party opposing both radicalism and lethargy and the part of the States Rights party that rises above sectional prejudice. "Constructive" can also fittingly describe the best of conservative, independent, and middle-of-the-road measures and men, and vouches that the principles which it designates are workable and the people it describes are practical.

Unyielding and Firm

"Constructive" as a name for a faith has this great advantage: When the Communists, Socialists, spies and their powerful sympathizers from among the abnormally intellectual and the excessively wealthy, finding the word popular, attempt to appropriate it as they have in recent years robbed American tradition of so many sacred words, the meaning of "constructive" is so unyielding and firm that these imposters must prove their fitness. Unable to warp the meaning of the word and unwilling to change their philosophy, they must abandon their trojan horse.

"Liberal" suggests the opposite of stingy and narrow-minded. It implies youth, warmth, progress and in an indefinite way, consecration to the welfare of the many. It is a perfect label for the well-meaning who are entitled to use it but is such an attractive name that it has been seized upon and used as sheep's clothing by the vicious, radical and spendthrift elements who much prefer the fine name "Liberal" to that of "Socialist" or "Communist"—titles which more accurately describe their activities and designs. The very worst type of reactionaries wave this same fine banner.

Liberal Popular Banner

"Liberal" has been, is now, and ever will be a popular banner around which its many and varied followers wax warm. It is a perennial philosophy, ever blossoming, and when all goes well, its fruiting of progress, benefits and welfare is gratefully acknowledged and thankfully received. There are many to call it blessed.

The wise, honest and truly prudent must view the Liberal in the light of the company he keeps. Liberals, finding it difficult to do so, fail to discipline their rank and file and in attempting to attain their idealistic goals, accept or eagerly enlist the help of political machine bosses, even letting their stooges carry the ball while skillful subversives seeking to destroy America run interference.

Apart From Inaction

"Constructive" is the opposite of destructive. It suggests origination and a state apart from inaction. "Constructive" indicates creative, productive, effective and dependable action. It suggests achievement, dignity, development, economy and integrity and thereby qualifies as a name for a philosophy of fine intent and best endeavor.

There is a quality of discipline in the word "constructive" which will cause those who strive to earn this title to do good and be better—to be more constructive. There could never be a constructive lunatic fringe, and it is difficult to visualize a constructive hatchet man, henchman or racketeer.

Word Means Economy

"Constructive" development means neither overdone nor underdone. "Constructive" economy calls for proper expenditures, neither too much nor too little. "Constructive" criticism is an expression of honest, helpful and impartial opinion. "Constructive" integrity means unquestioned and complete.

Members of political parties are all mixed up about what their party stands for. The present contest, which will decide the fate of the nation, is not one between political parties, but rather a death struggle between concepts.

Appeal to Reason

Good, sound government may be expected to result when two great opposing philosophies using names of equal potency such as "constructive" and liberal meet in the struggle for supremacy with their advocates offering at all times the most appealing and best principles at their respective commands. Liberal has the nicer sound, but "constructive" the much finer meaning. With names equally attractive, or nearly so, idle sentiment loses force and the appeal to reason rules.

The practice of "me-too" by supposedly responsible aspirants eager to compete in trading glib promises for votes has been tried, failed and is despised. Out-stating the opposition has proven the most vicious

of all campaigning because it spurs the opponent into making ever wilder promises which in turn the copy-cat candidate attempts to equal or suspass. Better that false promises be left for the use of the political magicians and the source will expose the pretense.

Practice Good Faith

"Constructives" cannot quarrel with liberal principles which are workable. If unable to effect the same, equally desirable results in a safer and better way, "constructives" must freely endorse such liberal measures and thereby reduce controversy. The time will come when better-posted people will require liberals to grow up and practice this good faith.

It is fitting to state some principles the "constructives" may now stress and in doing so to keep in mind that issues constantly change in relative importance. Whenever a new issue arises, any other may become secondary in importance to the new issue but should not be forgotten. When a situation is corrected it becomes of lesser importance and when cured it ceases to be an issue, regardless of its former moment.

Ability and Armaments

a. "Constructives" will work for our government to become fortified with ability and armaments, consistency and character, know-how and straight thinking, that it shall become so strong that it cannot be undermined or over-run from within or without.

b. "Constructive" conduct will insure that the government shall endure because "constructives" will protect it from being bled white through inconsistency, profligacy and incompetent actions abroad and attempts to bribe its citizenry at home.

c. "Constructives" will recognize and teach that the government does not produce and therefore cannot provide and that waste and inefficiency would bog down its attempt to produce.

Security for Aged

d. "Constructive" society will reward its honorably retired in an honest, dependable way through the management of government The currently producing generation will pay dividends to those who produced before from the heritage handed down to them. The security afforded the individual stems not from the government but from his productive fellow man who must not be hobbled nor destroyed but protected in every honest and worthwhile endeavor.

"Constructive" social security will work because it will not be used as a weapon in class warfare. It will not be used to pauperize either those who receive or those who pay. It will be administered without "take" and intimidation and will be firmly rooted in freedom and in individual liberty. Without these there can be no security.

God-Given Rights

e. "Constructives" will teach that the government can extend the greatest benefits to its people by fairly and righteously administering their legal rights as to each other and protecting the sanctity of their God-given rights.

f. "Constructives" will strive for honesty, including intellectual honesty in national administration, to nurture the honesty among the people, which is necessary to insure continued honesty in administration.

g. "Constructives" will maintain an economy minimizing waste, which in its workings will protect the savings of those who have saved and in the past supported the government by buying its bonds. This economy must leave in the possession of those who earn and produce all earnings above the cost of economical administration of the government.

No Freedom Exacted

h. "Constructives" will advocate a government which does not exact a pound of freedom for every service offered and an administration of that government which the people can understand and whose actions they can anticipate by consulting the laws enacted by their representatives.

Teacher Salaries

i. "Constructives" will provide salaries for those who teach the nation's youth commensurate with the cost and effort required of the teachers to prepare themselves to fill their noble profession and sufficient to reward them for their high ability, which enables them to teach. Payment of high salaries will be good economy for the public because such pay will enable the teachers themselves to enjoy the benefits of the private enterprise system, be capitalists in their unassuming way and thereby become enthusiastic advocates of that system.

The sane, useful, valuable citizen, the finished product of the teacher's unselfish guidance of the child during its formative years, will constitute a veritable bulwark of freedom and liberty. There will be no poisonous seeds planted in the youthful mind to develop later in time of travail into suspicion and doubt and an inclination to destroy our nation.

Resist Group Pressure

j. "Constructives" will stand for resistance to pressure group coercion, for the protection of minorities, a limitation of the tenure in office for the president and all other honest, workable measures which history reveals, or fine reasoning can anticipate, are proper and necessary for the nation's and its people's welfare.

These "constructive" policy samples are not platitudes but are offered as steadfast principles to be more specifically and fully described and defined in the enactment and enforcement of laws to accomplish their purposes.

Would Chide Liberals

"Constructives" will be mostly "for" but, of course, could not refrain from chiding and opposing liberals for their liberty with the money of others who work, produce, earn and save.

This liberal fault is so serious that it alone can destroy all liberty.

Of deepest concern, they will condemn liberals for their most liberal habit of giving up to the state the liberty of the individual, at home. They will expose and condemn the liberality of the Yalta-minded liberals infesting the state department, the commerce department, and other high places in government who have been and are still going up or assisting in the surrender of the liberty of many nations and hundreds of millions of people into the tyranny of alleged people parties ruled by ruthless and murderous dictators who say that they are also liberals.

Strangely Warped Minds

It is nearly impossible to believe that this goes on, for we cannot understand the strangely warped minds, which make it possible. We have fought two world wars to preserve this liberty which they so liberally give away. We have forgotten the last war was started to protect the integrity of Poland—how ghastly that seems now.

"Constructive followers can with propriety assist in forming an educational facts league whose membership may comprise sincere and open-minded members of all political parties or adherents to any philosophy of government so long as they dedicate themselves to securing, listing and using facts. This league would in effect be non-partisan even between philosophies.

The facts as they can best be ascertained would be obtained from all possible sources. Members of the league should be pledged to secure an impartial presentation of all the news through all news channels concerning issues of public interest. There must still be a spirit of fair play in the land which can be invoked to secure impartiality in the handling and presenting of the news.

Public Deserves Truth

The Facts League must maintain and prove that the public is entitled to the facts on both sides of all issues and cannot be pacified with the part and kind of news which Left Wing workers or Right Side partisans are willing to let them have. It would be the duty of the members of the Facts League to keep themselves and their associates within and outside the League well informed concerning issues affecting the welfare of the people and the nation.

Opinions of members as to which issues are most vital and how they should be resolved could be compiled by the national organization to be released to news channels monthly or quarterly in the form of League Opinion Polls. Between, but not during, the heat of political campaigns the league could advocate principles soundly determined by the opinion of its members but never endorse candidates, as principles endure but people are prone to change. By its action every day the league could prove its good motto, "The Truth Shall Make Us Free."

Launch Youth Move

The nation is in such grave danger at this time that "constructive" followers should assist in launching a Youth Movement for Freedom. The youths would require a minimum of help from their elders and there should be no attempts to exercise undue paternalism in this movement.

Now and forever youth must be served. Shall they be served regimentation which those seeking perpetuation in power and dictatorial control trick them into demanding as Hitler and Stalin did or shall wise and honest people teach youth to ascertain and assemble facts, recognize truth for themselves and act accordingly in order that youth shall attain and mature into a continuance of individual freedom? There need be few qualifications to join the Youth Movement—honesty, patriotism and an undying spirit of "I'm going to be free."

Adjective to Noun

"Constructive" until now has been an adjective. This fact offers no serious obstacle to its use as a trademark for the wholesome in government. Usage has transformed the adjectives progressive, liberal, red and others to nouns each know to mean a doctrine and its followers.

Should a political party in the United States assume the name "Constructive" it would bode ill for the name. Experience teaches that a political party will abandon its principles but refuse to surrender a popular name. "Constructive" would be good for the party, but the party might be bad for "constructive."

How to Help

How can you help?—Use the word "constructive" which passes on the message.

A great statesman may be called a great Constructive.

That which you believe good can be referred to as Constructive.

Sincerely and cordially are fine one-word closings as is constructively.

Build Better Way

"Constructives" will never go back but will retain the good from the past. Conscious of the seething tide, they will guide the tossing waves of restlessness and change—to build and ever keep a better way of life for all.

George Washington's request for a standard in the beginning resulted in the Constitution of the United States. Let us raise a standard "constructive" that it may endure without end.

*1 To correct the percentage on the May 14, 1950 Gallup Poll the 60% who refrained from making a choice should be disregarded, leaving 40% who voted a choice. The difference between the Liberal 23% and Conservative 17% equals 6. Divide 6 by the 40% voting which equals 15%. Liberal as a title for a philosophy was 15 percentage points superior to Conservative.

Conservative as a name for a philosophy was 15% less popular than Liberal at the same time that Republican as a name for a party was only 1% less popular than Democrat.

(A SHREVEPORT TIMES Editorial)

Sunday, December 3, 1950 THE SHREVEPORT TIMES

'Constructive'

The Times especially calls attention of its readers to an article on the opposite page in this issue by Mr. H. L. Hunt, Dallas oil man who is nationally known for his long success as a "wildcatter" in the Southwest fields.

In this article, which has been published by Mr. Hunt as a small brochure, he tells of his search for a word which would define a combination of the *best* philosophies of all of our modern political parties and forces if they could be rolled into one objective and one philosophy for people of today. Mr. Hunt finds that the word "constructive" best meets the needs he had in mind and, after reading his article, few will doubt that he has been as successful in his search for a word as he has been in his searches for oil.

What may be even more important than what Mr. Hunt has to say—and his article is very important, indeed, in the mind of The Times—is the fact that a man of great wealth, made possible by his own ability under the American system of free enterprise and unrestricted initiative—has turned his thoughts to social-political problems of today. Too many men, once they have achieved their own success, are content to enjoy it and let the rest of the world go by. Mr. Hunt's brochure is a modest effort in the other direction and one that obviously has been put before the public with some reluctance, for he is a man of such innate retirement and modesty that it took considerable persuasion for The Times to get permission to use his picture with the article. And, in publishing the brochure he specified in it that it could be used by anyone wishing to do so without credit to him.

As for his thoughts on the social-political aspect of current life, Mr. Hunt quite accurately points out that such words as "Liberal," "Conservative," "Tory," "Left," "Right," and "Radical" have been so used, misused and abused these days that their meaning rests entirely within the thoughts of the person using them.

> " 'Constructive,' " writes Mr. Hunt, "may designate the portion of the Democratic party opposing radicalism, the part of the Republican party opposing both radicalism and lethargy and the part of the States' Rights party that rises above sectional prejudice. 'Constructive' can also fittingly describe the best of conservative, independent, and middle-of-the-road measures and men, and vouches that the principles which it designates are workable and the people it describes are practical.
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Whatever else it may be, Mr. Hunt's article definitely is—*constructive!*

CONSTRUCTIVE, February 26, 1966

My attempts to project the title "Constructive" into public affairs in 1950 unfortunately did not prevail although it had some powerful proponents in the U. S. Senate. The American public was talking about "cleaning up that mess in Washington" which might have happened had "Constructive" become the leading name for the freedom side.

The name is needed now as much as ever by Americans who oppose communism, socialism, and other threats to freedom. Once upon a time these freedomists took pride in being called "Liberals" but that fine name was expropriated by the opposition. "Progressive," another fine name much favored in the days of Teddy Roosevelt, fell victim to those who used the word in campaigns which cheapened it.

The title "Constitutional" is frequently used as a name for a cult and at times for a political party, but the title loses meaning when considered in connection with the fact that the U. S. Constitution is evaded and changed until it is "only what the Supreme Court says it is."

"Independent" is impractical because it connotes about 20% of the electorate who, when asked, proudly answer they are "Independents." They are unwilling to adhere to either of the major political parties. The two-party system is vital to the nation and control by good citizens of one or the other of the parties must save liberty, if at all.

"Right," with the persons inclined to the right-of-center philosophy called "Rightists," has been spoken of so disparagingly that "Right" labors under a handicap at home and abroad.

Patriotic people who by word and deed have earned the name "Patriot" have come into disfavor with some of the most prominent and popular men in public life. They have been defamed as "ultra-patriots," "super-patriots," "pseudo-patriots," and "paranoid-patriots." However, despite the prominence of its detractors, "Patriot" would seem so fundamentally good that it could be resurrected and carry with it prestige to everyone to whom it is applied.

On first thought no verbal banner could seem to be better than the proud designation, "American." But America can no longer be considered exclusive or even selective in suggesting the United States. In addition to it being a misnomer, there is another disadvantage that in years past, "For America" and "America First" groups, although composed of fine patriotic people, were smeared successfully by the enemies of freedom.

The two major political parties, Republican and Democrat, are both attractively named. The names have meaning and they both have records of more than 100 years to support them, even though the policies of each party have often changed.

"Conservative" as a title serves the cause of freedom poorly, even though it implies steadfastness, reliability, sound judgment, and other highly desirable qualities, yet it lacks romance. Condemned as old-fashioned and Tory, it has been overused until it sounds meaningless. More than 1,700 separate organizations attempting improvement in government have unwisely included in their names the word "conservative." This unfortunate title, if ever good, has been so maligned that in the minds of many it has come to stand for reaction.

Furthermore, it has been a losing title in the national elections in Canada April 8, 1963; in Britain October 15, 1964, and in the U. S. with Goldwater, having won the nomination with his book "Conscience of a Conservative," November 3, 1964. Conservatives, including brilliant Sir Winston Churchill, have presided over the liquidation of the world's largest empires.

As a way of permitting the title finally adopted to win wide approval, a start could be made at once by using several catchy names, all having to do with the same freedom philosophy. Some think one name would soon work itself to the top, but it is not likely that any coined name could equal the fine three-syllable title, now being carefully applied, "Constructive."

The title, "Conservative," is highly inadvisable in the United States as it foments and even promotes splinter or third party movements nearly always to the detriment of the most constructive of the two major party candidates. Constructive philosophies are helpful to the better of the two major party candidates even though the constructiveness of both leaves much to be desired. The philosophy will tend to tame radicals, bringing them back into the fold.

"Constructive" is a fool-proof word. In fact, it is so good that those who preach and practice destruction often seize it as an adjective to describe the evils they advocate, in order to deceive the people about their intentions, but they cannot make their use of the word stick.

"Constructive" as a title for a philosophy means all that is good and implies none that is bad in the name, Conservative. Any person or principle is subject to attack as being too conservative, but they can never be defamed as being too constructive.

"Constructive" is noteworthy in that it can be used either as a noun or an adjective. It can become a trademark for the sound and humanity-serving programs in the governmental, social, and economic structure of our nation. It is a word with an innate quality of orderliness and discipline. No one could ever visualize a Constructive lunatic fringe or hope to malign anyone by labeling him "super-constructive."

Patriots who have the reputation of being Conservatives, Liberals, or Constructives will find that, of the three, the title "Constructive" is best. It is a word that instantly calls to mind desirable, productive, enduring qualities.

There should be two opposing sets of principles by title, and "Constructive" and "Liberal" are ideal for meeting this need. Their two thought groups may be described as follows:

Liberal — Those who stress privileges for the masses; holds human rights superior to property rights; stand for progress unhampered by tradition, for social gains, for paternalistic government, and associated and similar objectives.

Constructive — Those who stress freedom and individual initiative, property rights as requisite to real human rights, the incentive system, productive action, human dignity, protection from governmental monopoly and associated objectives.

A Constructive can embrace such Liberal policies as he finds acceptable. A Liberal can always be as Constructive as his progressive policies will permit. As for a "Moderate" or a "Middle-of-the-Roader," he is usually trying to be all things to all people and lacks the courage of his convictions to make a choice between Constructive and Liberal doctrines.

The pressing need is for a name that stands out as the best for describing the philosophy that calls for promoting progress, insuring freedom, national sovereignty, independence and fostering liberty and peace through strength. It is doubtful that any other word as meaningful and as propaganda-proof as Constructive can be found or coined.

Some may ask, "What's in a name?" The truthful answer can be, "The difference." . . . Constructively, H. L. Hunt, 1401 Elm St., Dallas.

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